

INCOMING TELEGRAM

Department of State

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Action

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FROM: NEW YORK

Info

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TO: Secretary of State

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CONVERSATION WITH KUZNETSOV

AT LUNCH WITH KUZNETSOV TODAY WE DISCUSSED CUBA AND HE WAS VERY PLEASED THAT WE WOULD ACCEPT RED CROSS INSPECTION OF THE INCOMING SHIPS. HE ASSURED ME EMPHATICALLY THAT THE WEAPONS WOULD BE (REPEAT WOULD BE) DISMANTLED AND REMOVED AND THAT WE COULD COUNT ON IT, AND THEN HAVE WHATEVER VERIFICATION AT THE END OF THE PROCESS WE WANTED.

IF WE COULD NOT FLY OUR HIGH-LEVEL RECONNAISSANCE PLANES ALONG THE COAST OUTSIDE CUBAN TERRITORIAL WATERS AND GET GOOD ENOUGH PICTURES.

HE WAS NONCOMMITTAL, BUT CLEARLY WORRIED ABOUT CUBAN OBJECTIONS TO OVER-FLIGHTS.

AS TO TIME INVOLVED TO COMPLETE DISMANTLING AND REMOVAL PROCESS, HE SAID KHRUSHCHEV HAD TOLD HIM BEFORE HE LEFT MOSCOW THAT IT WOULD PROBABLY TAKE TWO OR THREE WEEKS.

HE SEEMED

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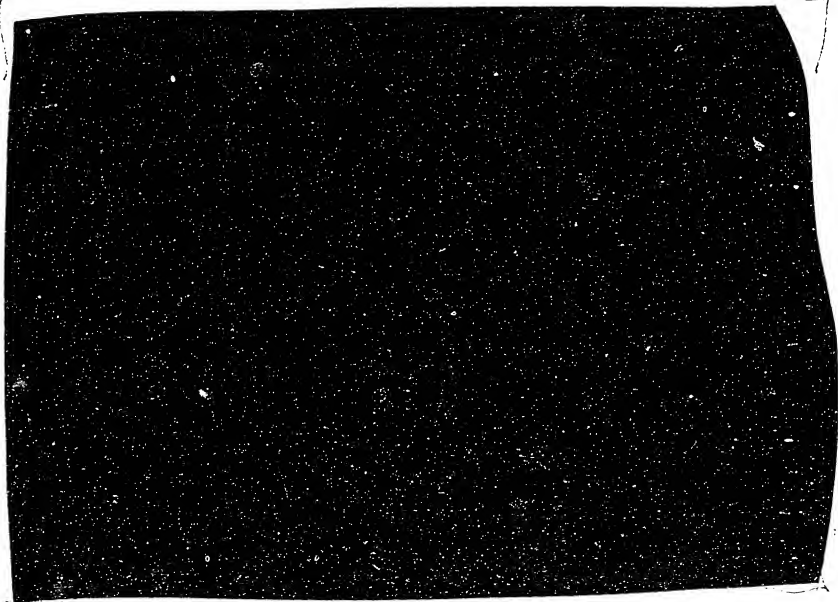
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HE ADVERTED SEVERAL TIMES TO REMOVAL OF OUR BASES WHICH THREATEN THE SOVIET UNION AS THEY HAD REMOVED THEIR BASE IN CUBA WHICH THREATENED THE US.

MTG WAS EXTREMELY CORDIAL, AND WE ALSO TALKED ABOUT PREVIOUS MTGS AND MY WRITINGS ON THE SOVIET UNION WITH WHICH HE WAS FAMILIAR. HE DISCUSSED WITH GREAT CANDOR THE AGRICULTURAL PROBLEM AND THE SLOW DEVELOPMENT OF THE VIRGIN LANDS PROJECT, WHERE THEY ARE CONSOLIDATING AND MECHANIZING AND NOT INCREASING ACREAGE. HE BROUGHT ME FRIENDLY MESSAGES FROM KHRUSHCHEV AND MIKOYAN.

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